

Incineration of Animal Mortality

Alabama Guide Sheet No. AL 316A



Definition

Incineration of mortalities from poultry, swine, and other small animal operations is a suitable means of on-farm disposal.

General Information

Incinerators utilize an energy source such as propane gas, LP gas, or diesel fuel with forced air in a combustion chamber(s) to reduce animal mortalities to ashes. When properly operated, incinerators prevent the emission of objectionable odors and excessive amounts of particulate matter.

Incinerators, or the modification of incinerators, for animal mortality disposal must be registered with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) prior to installation and operation. Only Type 4 incinerators from ADEM's approved list can be used for animal mortality disposal.

NRCS can determine the size and number of incinerators needed for an animal operation.

Electrical and gas hook-ups for incinerators are to meet all codes and must be certified by a qualified technician.

For diesel-fired incinerators with fuel stored in a container of 55 gallon capacity or more, a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan shall be prepared by a professional engineer licensed in the state of Alabama.

Incinerators should be located:

- at least 165 ft. from the nearest property line for a dry waste poultry system
- at least 100 ft. from any drainageway
- at least 200 ft. from any natural water course

- at least 100 ft. from any up gradient well or 300 ft. from any down gradient well
- at least 20 ft. from any combustible building
- on a 4 in. thick concrete slab extending 2 ft. from the incinerator base
- as far from the source of fuel as practical

A roof over the incinerator will extend its useful life. Any combustible roof parts must be at least 6 in. from the incinerator chimney.

Operation and Maintenance

Incinerators are designed to handle normal mortalities on a once a day basis. Heavy mortalities near the end of a grow-out cycle may require loading the incinerator more than once a day. Some operations will require the use of more than one incinerator. Catastrophic loss of animals shall be handled with emergency procedures (see Guide Sheet AL 316, Emergency Disposal of Dead Animals).

The ash produced by the incinerator should be evenly distributed on an actively growing crop in accordance with Alabama NRCS conservation practice standard Nutrient Management, Code 590.

References

AL NRCS Conservation Practice Standard
[Code 316 - Animal Mortality Facility](#)
[Code 590 - Nutrient Management](#)

ADEM Admin. Code. Ch. 335-6-7 (AFO/CAFO Program)

AL NRCS Guide Sheets
[AL 316 - Emergency Disposal of Dead Animals](#)
[AL 590 - Application Distances for Applying Animal Manure and Organic By-Products](#)

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